



# SELDI.net

Southeast European Leadership for  
Development and Integrity

## ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWSLETTER

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### SELDI Secretariat

Macedonian Center for  
International Cooperation  
[www.mcms.mk](http://www.mcms.mk)

### ADDRESS

PO BOX 55,  
str. Nikola Parapunov 41a,  
1000 Skopje, Macedonia

### CONTACT

[www.seldi.net](http://www.seldi.net)  
[seldi@mcms.mk](mailto:seldi@mcms.mk)  
+389 2 3065 381

### KNOWLEDGE AND OUTREACH

Center for the Study of Democracy  
[www.csd.bg](http://www.csd.bg)

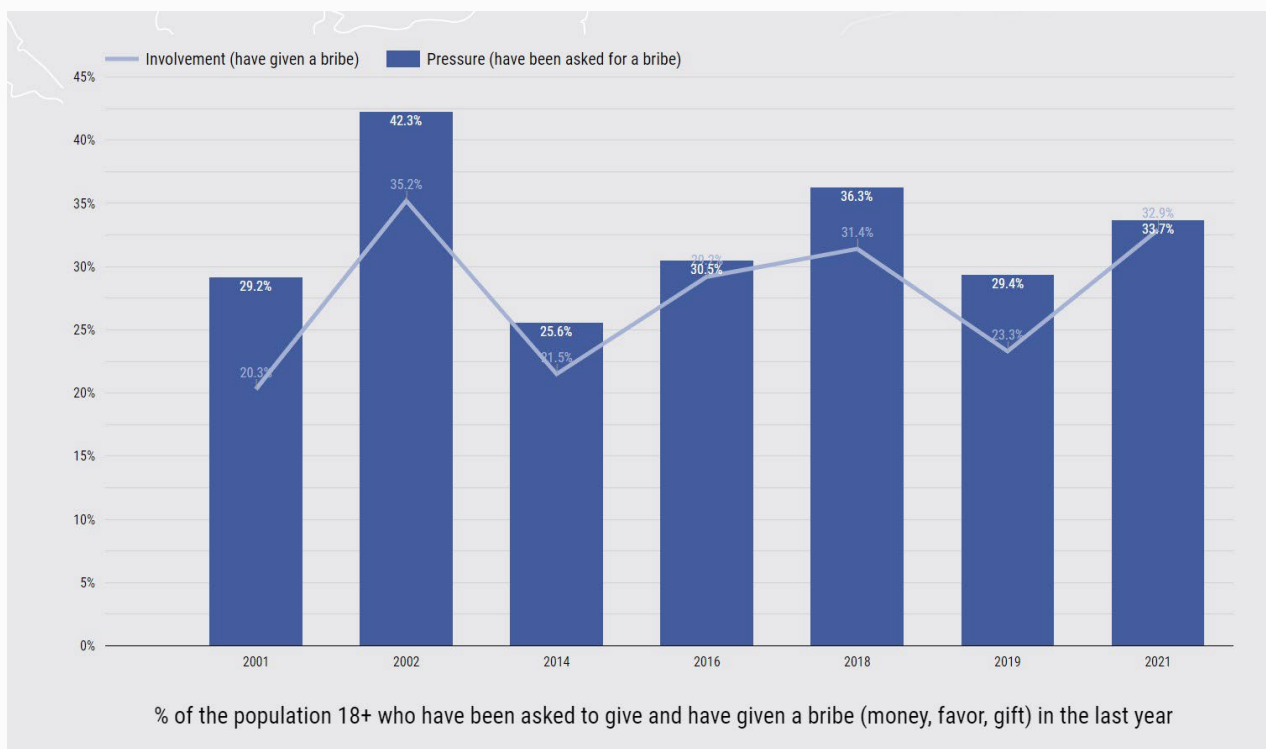


**NEWS BY  
SELDI  
MEMBERS**



# CORRUPTION BECOMES THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR THE MACEDONIAN CITIZENS

In 2021, corruption raised as the largest problem for the citizens, unlike previous years when the top three issues were unemployment, poverty and low incomes. Political instability for the first time is not on the list of top five problems citizens face. These are among the conclusions made by the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), in the Corruption Assessment Report 2021.



According to the findings of SELDI's Corruption Monitoring System (CMS), for about 80% of the population the desire for fast personal enrichment by those in power is the leading factor for a widespread corruption, followed by the lack of strict administrative control over corruption, non-enforcement of laws and insufficient protection of persons reporting corruption.

**MCIC, 09.12.2021**

## THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION TASKED AS A JOB OF THE MOST CORRUPTED IN NORTH MACEDONIA

The perception of high level of corruption among officials and public administration is widespread among citizens. The data from SELDI's Corruption Monitoring System (CMS) shows that almost two thirds of the citizens (69%) think that the officials are involved in corruption and only 5.4% of the citizens believe that rarely any official is involved. For years, the professions that are tasked with fighting corruption have been perceived by the citizens as the most corrupt. The trend of increasing that attitude is especially visible when it comes to judges and police officers. Among judges, the attitude towards corruption is growing from 76% in 2018, reaching as high as 90% in 2019 and 2021. There is an increase of 13 percentage points among police officers from 2018 to 2021, when it reached 65%. Citizens' perception of the corruption of public prosecutors all these years is over 70%.

**MCIC, 30.11.2021**

## SCPC MARKED ANTICORRUPTION DAY WITH A CONFERENCE

“Only with joint action the institutions and with the support of the public the fight against corruption will have an effect!” This is the message from the conference held today, on the occasion of December 9 – the International Anti-corruption Day. The conference held under the motto “Choose the right direction - choose integrity!” was organized by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC).

**SCPC, 10.12.2021**

## MPS AND GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO TO REDEFINE THEIR RELATIONSHIP

There is a room for laws on Parliament and the Government to better regulate the mutual relationship between executive and legislative branches of power. This relationship, however, will always be determined by the political context and parliamentary practice. These were among the conclusions of the conference “Legislative and Control Function of the Parliament of Montenegro” organized by Institute Alternative (IA). Milena Muk from Institute Alternative reminded the participants that laws on Parliament and the Government should be drafted by the end of the year. She underlined that with the shift of power and political circumstances it became evident that procedures of law making within the Parliament were neglected over the years.

Branka Bošnjak, vice-president of Parliament of Montenegro and Dritan Abazović, vice-president of the Government of Montenegro also spoke in the introductory part of the conference, followed by the panel discussion chaired by IA and focused on the work of parliamentary committees, with focus on five of them monitored by the IA in the previous period (Committee on Anti-Corruption, Committee for Security and Defence, Committee for Economy, Finance and Budget, Committee for Political System, Judiciary and Administration, Committee for Human rights and Freedoms).

**IA, 17.11.2021**

## STRATEGIZING FROM THE FUTURE: A NEW WAY OF PLANNING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN NORTH MACEDONIA

The strategizing from a future point of view does have added value when applied to the anticorruption area. Not only does it take into account the future capacities to tackle the problem, but such a forward-looking approach also considers the future forms the corruption could have. In that sense, the fight against corruption must be prepared for a number of possible scenarios, such as the success or failure of the Open Balkans and the positive and negative effects of that market integration and deregulation, the success or failure of cryptocurrencies, migration and human capital, successes or failures in the fight against organized crime and many other factors, domestic and foreign.

**IDSCS, December 2021**

## VISION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION - WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN 2022



On the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations for Fight Against Corruption organized the discussion “Vision for the fight against corruption - what are the main challenges in 2022”. The members of the Board of the Platform of Civil Society Organizations for Fighting Corruption identified the possible challenges that are expected next year and also gave forecasts for the future steps and activities in the fight against corruption.

**CSOs Platform against corruption, 09.12.2021**

## “MONTENEGRO NOW!” - CAUTION TODAY!



SELDI's partner Institute Alternativa analysed the 2022 Capital Budget. The Government (neither this nor the previous one) has not implemented recommendations of the State Audit Institution (SAI) regarding the capital budget. In their analysis, SAI points out that the public investment management system is not sufficiently developed, that capital projects rarely meet the basic preconditions to be nominated in the first place. In this way, poorly prepared projects are chosen and financed, causing a delay at the start as well as problems in long run. Therefore, Institute Alternativa called upon the Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare to publish the Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) report on Montenegro.

IA, 23.11.2021

## MORE DECISIVE STEPS ARE NEEDED FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

Institute Alternativa submitted comments to the Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media within the public debate on the Draft Public Administration Reform Strategy 2016-2022. The comments revealed the large gap between the identified problems of politicization, undue influence on public administration recruitment and the absence of priorities and activities in the Draft Strategy that would target those problems. In order to address this gap, the objective of the Strategy for “professionalisation of public administration” should also include legal amendments and implementation of new rules, aimed at stripping the discretionary right during recruitment, improved examination of prospective civil servants and more transparent reporting about the examination results, especially from oral interviews. The scope of improved rules from the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees should be extended to agencies and other independent regulatory bodies (except the ones subject of the special laws). Institute Alternativa believes that without responding to these challenges, merit based recruitment and professionalism of public administration would remain out of reach.

IA, 02.12.2021

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IA, 02.12.2021

## NO PROGRESS TOWARDS THE EU WITHOUT THE PARLIAMENT



Ana Đurnić, public policy researcher at Institute Alternative (IA) participated in a joint session of the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration and the Anti-Corruption Committee, which focused on the political criteria for EU membership, in the areas of judicial reform and the fight against corruption. During the session, she stressed that it was necessary to consult the Parliament prior to drafting and adopting by the Government an Action Plan to address the key recommendations of the European Commission's report. Ana Đurnić underlined the need for a broader political, institutional and social consensus about this document. She added that the resolution of the problematic situation in judiciary and prosecution is directly related to the Parliament, which was another reason for involving the MPs in this document's preparation.

IA, 15.12.2021

## SHQIPËRIA N'KUVENDIM: THE FIRST NATIONAL DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY EXERCISE



For the first time in Albania, about 110 citizens from across the country gathered in the largest exercise of deliberative democracy "Shqipëria n'Kuvendim (Albania in the Assembly)" held from 18th to 21st of November 2021 in Tirana. This social experiment is a unique form of public consultation that combines techniques of public opinion research and public deliberation, and it also gives citizens a chance to become more informed. For the implementation of this exercise, IDM has been in close consultation with the Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University (USA) and with the authors of the model Prof. James Fishkin and Dr. Alice Siu.

IDM, 07.12.2021

## CIVIL SERVICE AND POLICYMAKING INTEGRITY CHALLENGE THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM IN ALBANIA



On the International Day Against Corruption, December 9, 2021, IDM and Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS) organised the policy forum "Civil service and policymaking integrity", within the the Week of Integrity 2021. The forum discussed the challenges of the public administration reform (PAR) in two different panels dedicated to civil service and policymaking. The discussion was based on the presentation of three policy briefs with in-depth policy recommendations on (i) civil service integrity, (ii) policymaking based on data and evidence, and (iii) public consultation, assessed as red-flagged issues by the WeBER 2.0 PAR Monitor Albania 2019/2020 report.

IDM, 09.12.2021

## COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR AUDITING THE FBH PARLIAMENT HELD HEARINGS FOR 25 INSTITUTIONS IN THE FEDERATION OF BIH

Public hearings were organized in the period from November 15 to 18 for representatives of 24 institutions which received qualified or adverse audit opinion. CCI drew attention to the importance of the hearings and the role of the Commission in the public audit process. Through audit reports, citizens and the public can see how the public money is spent, and through live broadcasted hearing it is possible to follow the further actions of the Parliament and those who are responsible for results from the audited institutions.

**CCI, 15-18.11.2021**

## PRESENTATION OF THE ANALYSIS “PUBLIC AUDIT IN BRČKO DISTRICT BIH 2018 – 2020”

In the Brčko district, it is noticeable that there is no control over the implementation of the audit recommendations by institutions, while the legislative framework does not provide for any measures in this regard. On the other hand, institutions do not show readiness to independently correct irregularities and weaknesses that the Office points out to them through financial audit reports. As a consequence, the implementation of audit recommendations in the institutions of the Brčko district is at a low level and has a negative trend.

The possibility of improving the situation in the future is promised by the fact that the competent institutions have recognized this problem and formed a working group to develop instructions aimed at encouraging the implementation of audit recommendations.

In this regard CCI called on the newly formed Working group to envisage measures that will ensure the accountability of institutions in spending public money by sanctioning institutions that do not eliminate identified irregularities and do not implement audit recommendations. In addition, they called on the Mayor of the Brčko district to adopt these instructions as soon as possible, so that it would be applicable from the next revised period.

**CCI, 1.12.2021**

## RAI WINS 2021 EPAC/EACN AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) regional campaign on whistleblowing “Break the Silence: Whistle for the end” won EPAC/EACN 2021 Award for the most innovative anti-corruption initiative. The award was announced during the 20th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania, organized from 1-2 December. RAI “Whistle for the end” campaign was chosen as the best one of the majority of votes of the 84 EPAC member states’ delegates.

Whistle for the End! is part of the educational-informative campaign that is being realized by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, with the financial support of the European Union, within the project “Breaking the Silence: Enhancing Whistleblowing Policies and Culture in the Western Balkans and Moldova”. Within this project, the RAI Secretariat is working on strengthening the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of whistleblowers, in line with the new EU Directive on their protection.

**RAI, 2 December 2021**

# RAI SECRETARIAT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EYP ALBANIA DELIVERS YOUTH ANTI-CORRUPTION FORUM

Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat in partnership with the European Youth Parliament (EYP) in Albania organized and supported the Anti-Corruption Forum that gathered close to 50 youth participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. This three-day event was a part of the Week of Integrity in Albania.

During the Forum, youth delegates had the opportunity to learn from RAI experts about whistleblower protection and judicial integrity, and to apply their knowledge during preparation of motions. In the conclusion of the Forum, EYP Delegates presented and argued for motions on these and other anti-corruption topics.

**RAI, December 6-9 2021**



# ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWS FROM THE SEE REGION

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*The current section of the Newsletter presents a summary of the latest anti-corruption news from the SEE region, based on consolidated information from multiple sources, such as media outlets and narratives received by the SELDI project partners.*

## **EXTENSION OF VETTING DEADLINES IN ALBANIA, SOCIALIST PARTY SUBMITS PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The ruling party is requesting the cooperation of the opposition with the extension of the mandate for the “Vetting” institutions. The Socialist Party has made proposals in the Parliament and has started negotiations with the opposition regarding the constitutional changes for the transitional re-evaluation of prosecutors and judges, since in order to change the Constitution at least 2/3 of the votes are needed. Based on the constitutional changes of 2016, the Vetting institutions have a mandate until the end of this year. “Vetting” will then be conducted by the High Prosecution Council and the High Judicial Council. The extension of this process is strongly recommended by international partners the EU and the US who have supported Albania in every step of justice reform. It is expected that at the beginning of December, the Venice Commission will give an opinion on the extension of the “Vetting” process.

**Euronews Albania, 22.11.2021**

## **“WAR” WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: BERISHA AND BASHA INCREASE THE DOSE OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST EACH OTHER ON THE EVE OF THE PARTY ASSEMBLY**

As the date for convening of the National Assembly of the Democratic Party (DP) approaches, former Prime Minister Sali Berisha and the current chairman of the party Lulzim Basha have issued mutual accusations against each other. This situation is weakening the party in front of the public but also its opponents. Sali Berisha has stated that Basha is so harmless that he has become a beloved figure for socialist voters. On the other hand, the leader of the Democratic Party tells him that Berisha is putting himself above the party. In the largest opposition party in the country, two national assemblies were convened, one by the former prime minister, through the gathering of the signatures of 4200 delegates of the assembly on December 11th. Mr. Berisha has stated that during this meeting the current chairman of the party will be fired and he will run again to take over the leadership of the party. Meanwhile, Mr. Lulzim Basha also convened a party assembly on December 18.

**Euronews Albania, 26.11.2021**

## **PRESIDENT META RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT FOR RECONSIDERATION THE LAW ‘ON CO-GOVERNMENT’**

The President of Albania, Ilir Meta, has returned the law “On Co-Government” to the Assembly for reconsideration. The president has listed the reasons why he made this decision, including that the law “violates the Constitution and the autonomy of local government”. Other reasons, according to the president, are that this law “creates parallel institutions and overlapping competencies between them, violating legal certainty, centralizes more power in an institution directly subordinated to the Prime Minister, conflicts with the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court, and contradicts the principles of functioning of the state administration sanctioned in other Codes and Laws”. This is not the first time the president has returned a laws for review. In other cases, these laws have been passed due to regulations drafted by the opposition and accelerated procedures.

**Albanian Telegraphic Agency, 30.11.2021**

## THE ADOPTION OF LAW ON REFERENDUM AND PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

Members of the Serbian Parliament adopted the Law on Referendum and People's Initiative. The law was supported by 178 deputies, two were against, and no one abstained. This law should regulate the manner of voting, i.e., decision-making of citizens in a referendum, and how the people's initiative will be implemented in the future. The law brings changes primarily in terms of abolishing the mandatory threshold for the required number of voters as a condition for the success of the referendum. The Law on Referendum and People's Initiative is of great concern to the experts, because, as stated by representatives of several different NGOs, associations, movements and political parties, the will of citizens could be abused. Among the criticisms is that it serves as preparation for projects to be carried out by Rio Tinto on which a referendum has been announced.

**Danas, 25.11.2021**

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED NEW LAW ON EXPROPRIATION DESPITE CITIZENS AND CSOS APPEALS

On November 26, 2021, despite appeals from citizens and CSOs on amending the Law on Expropriation, the Parliament of Serbia adopted the document without organizing a public debate and without explaining how relevant stakeholders were consulted. The Ministry of Finance has published on its website the possibility of submitting written proposals within seven days, although the minimum duration of public discussions is 20 days, and they should be published on the portal eUprava. These legal changes are threatening because they introduce the possibility of forced purchase of private property for the needs of any project implemented under the auspices of an agreement concluded by Serbia with foreign countries if the Government determines that it is necessary "for projects to build facilities of significance for the Republic of Serbia". These terms nor the criteria for their determination are not described in the Law on Expropriation, and no norm refers to the provisions of other laws. That leaves a wide space for discretionary decision-making. Thus, this law joins a long series of acts based on which special procedures were created. However, unlike the cases "Belgrade Waterfront" and "Moravian Corridor", this was not done only for one project, but for an unlimited number of future situations.

**Transparentnost, 27.11.2021**

## REFERENDUM ON THE SERBIAN CONSTITUTION

At the end of November, the Serbian Parliament worked on determining the constitutional amendments on which the citizens of Serbia will decide on January 16, 2022. The purpose of the changes, following the process of European integration of Serbia, should be to free the judiciary from political influence. The key changes to the Constitution introduced by the amendments are the election of judges by the High Judicial Council and the election of prosecutors by the High Council of Prosecutors - thus, the National Assembly will not participate directly in the election. However, its indirect impact would remain. After the constitutional changes, five prosecutors will sit in the High Council of Prosecutors, which consists of 11 members, while the remaining six will consist of four prominent lawyers, the Minister of Justice and the Supreme Public Prosecutor (which is the name of the former Republic Public Prosecutor). All these members are elected by the National Assembly. Experts warn that due to this situation and the lack of an independent prosecutor's office, the fight against high-level corruption would not be possible. Thus, a High Council of Prosecutors does not reflect the recommendations of either the Venice Commission or GRECO, which refer to the fact that such a body should exclude ex officio members - the Minister of Justice and the Supreme Public Prosecutor. Experts announce that changes to the Constitution could also have a bad effect on the election of judges by the High Judicial Council.

**European Western Balkans, 28.11.2021**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTS IN SERBIA



After the adoption of the Law on Referendum and People's Initiative and the Law on Expropriation, Serbian citizens protested across the country, blocking roads in various cities. Citizens' dissatisfaction was caused by the fact that the adoption of these laws was seen as preparation for the projects that should be done by the company Rio Tinto, which met with serious resistance in the public. Environmental groups have been protesting for months against Rio Tinto, which is expected to open a mine of jadarite, a variant of lithium which was found in the western Serbia. Experts pointed out that the project would cause a huge damage to the environment. However, Government of Serbia has stood behind the project, claiming it would bring economic

benefits to Serbia. President Vučić announced the possibility of the referendum for the citizens of the region to decide on whether the project will be launched. Citizens believe that amended Laws would enable manipulation in this matter. Initiated by the activist groups "Kreni-promeni", "Ecological uprising" and "Assembly of Free Serbia" and supported by some opposition parties, protests were held on November 28th. They ended up with multiple arrests and violent conflict in the city of Šabac. The violent incident happened after the police withdrawn and unknown people tried to drive through the groups of citizens blocking the road with a bulldozer. The protesters in Šabac were also attacked by the masked people carrying bats and hammers. Across the country multiple people have been arrested for participating in the protest. Simultaneously, during the protests, the congress of ruling party, SNS, took place and new leadership was elected. It was agreed that President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić will remain at the helm of the party at least until the elections on 3 April.

**Europeanwesternbalkans, 28.11.2021**

## VUČIĆ AND THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPT DEMONSTRATORS' DEMANDS, NO NEW PROTESTS SCHEDULED

Serbia's Government withdrew on Wednesday the controversial Expropriation Law from the Parliamentary procedure after President Aleksandar Vučić returned it to MPs following environmentalists' mass protests across the country during the last two weekends, and some organisers said if the Parliament passed the changes by Friday, no new protests would be called for the next Saturday. Law on Referendum abolished a mandatory turnout of 50 percent plus one for the vote to be valid and included verification taxes on signatures for a civil initiative. The demonstrators said that law and the Expropriation Law, passed by the Parliament but not signed by President Aleksandar Vučić, were tailored to suit Rio Tinto's project of mining lithium in the west of Serbia. On Wednesday, the Government said it would analyse whether changes and amendments were needed, and if the Expropriation Law should be changed, it would be done in a broad public debate.

The decision followed Vučić's initiative. One of the leaders of Serbia's environmentalists, Savo Manojlović, told the nova.rs website that there would not be new protests on Saturday if the Parliament adopted the changes to the Law on Referendum. „The Government accepted all demands from the protests, and if the Parliament passed them, there wouldn't be protests on Saturday” Savo Manojlović, the leader of the 'Kreni-Promeni' Initiative, said.

**N1, 08.12.2021**

## FISCAL COUNCIL REPORT: NON-TRANSPARENT BUDGET SPENDING INCREASED

According to a report of the Serbian Fiscal Council, out of total 100 billion dinars that were invested through the current budget reserve last year, for 14 billion or almost EUR 120 million the purpose has not been explained, nor have the users been listed. The report of that institution states that during 2020, the spending of 86 billion dinars was “covered” through publications in the Official Gazettes, but that the final account of the republic budget shows much more was spent, although it is not known on what. According to the president of the Fiscal Council, the spending of the disputed 14 billion from the current budget reserve was marked as “strictly confidential”, but it is not clear on what basis. The president of this body also draws attention to the fact that local governments, including sports, are constantly given some transfers, so it is not clear why this is not included in the budget. Nemanja Nenadić, program director of Transparency Serbia, reminds of the problem of discretionary decision-making on the allocation of funds, especially when it comes to local self-government. As stated in the report of the Fiscal Council, “most of the disputed 14 billion dinars come from the Ministry of Defence, 9.2 billion dinars, and it is not clear whether all transfers must be secret. The same mark has 2.2 billion dinars paid from the account of the General Secretariat of the Government, then 800 million from the Republic Directorate for Property, 500 million each from the Administration for Joint Affairs of Republic Bodies and the Ministry of Economy.”

**Transparentnost 01.12.2021**

## CITIZENS CONCERNED WITH CORRUPTION, CRIME AND ECONOMY IN NORTH MACEDONIA

In the latest National Democratic Institute (NDI) survey conducted in July and August 2021 with a representative sample of 816 people and an estimated margin of error +/-3.43%, citizens were polled on their general outlook, top concerns, perceptions about corruption, and confidence in the judiciary and other institutions in their abilities to combat corrupt practices.

**NDI, 09.12.2021**

## ZAEV PLANS TO RESIGN AFTER PENDAROVSKI'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Zaev now considers the SDSM – DUI led coalition in Parliament as solidified, after the Alternative party decided to join it, and plans to go ahead with the second portion of his resignation. Zaev left as SDSM party leader, and the party elected little known former telecom executive Dimitar Kovacevski as its new leader. Zaev is leaving after his major defeat in the October local elections to VMRO-DPMNE, which now dominates the city halls across the country.

**Republica, December 2021**

## PRESS CONFERENCE IN BANJA LUKA

An informal group of citizens “Stop the construction of small hydropower plants on Kasindolska River” held a press conference in Banja Luka, where they presented an open letter addressed to the Minister of Physical Planning, Construction and Ecology of Republic of Srpska. In letter they stated, among other things, that the citizens of East Sarajevo were denied the right to vote on the construction of SHPPs on the Kasindolska River and they told: “We want decisions to be made in the public interest, for the benefit of all citizens of our city, not for a small number of individuals”.

**Revizije. 27.11.2021**



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



## **RAI'S CALL FOR THE BEST ANTI-CORRUPTION PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVES REMAINS OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2022**

RAI Secretariat extended the deadline for submitting proposals for Grant Program The Best Anti-corruption Public Awareness Initiatives. The Call for Proposals remains open until January 15, 2022. Interested CSOs had the opportunity to learn more about Call for Proposals and the funding opportunities during the online info session held on December 10, 2021.

## **SOUTHEAST EUROPE TOGETHER AGAINST CORRUPTION – SPECIAL EVENT AT UNCAC COSP9**

Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative and the UNODC Civil Society Unit will organise special event under the auspice of the Regional Programme “Southeast Europe - Together Against Corruption (SEE-TAC)”, funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation during the 9th Conference of State parties to UN Convention against Corruption in Sharm el Sheikh on December 16, 2021.

The event will engage in conversation different programme partners from the SEE who work in the anti-corruption field. Panellists will examine the concept of togetherness by deconstructing its meaning from their respective angles: the government, CSOs, regional and international organizations, donor, and will share their experiences and lessons learned in partnering with peers, other stakeholders and countries in achieving common goals.

## **WEBINAR: JOINING CIVIL SOCIETY FORCES FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: WHAT'S NEXT?**

The SELDI initiative is organizing a one-hour brainstorming webinar on 18 January 2022, aimed to identify the best methods for CSO networks to join forces and achieve impact in the areas of anti-corruption, good governance and the rule of law. More details will be published in the forthcoming period.



**REPORTS  
AND  
ANALYSIS**



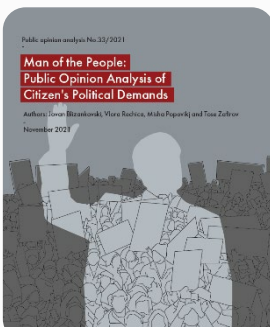
## CORRUPTION ASSESSMENT REPORT 2021- NORTH MACEDONIA



MCIC is preparing the Corruption Assessment Report for the fifth time as an overview of the state of affairs and dynamics of corruption in North Macedonia. The basis of this report is SELDI's Corruption Monitoring System which consists of seven indexes, or indicators on experience with corruption, attitude towards corruption and perceptions for corruption. The purpose of this report is to give account of the corruption dynamics, state of affairs, and trends in North Macedonia, as well as the perspective and the potential for its suppression. The report is based on a survey conducted by IPSOS. The data were collected through face to face interviews conducted in Macedonian and Albanian language in the period from April 27 to May 20, 2021, on a representative sample of 1014 adults.

**MCIC, 09.12.2021**

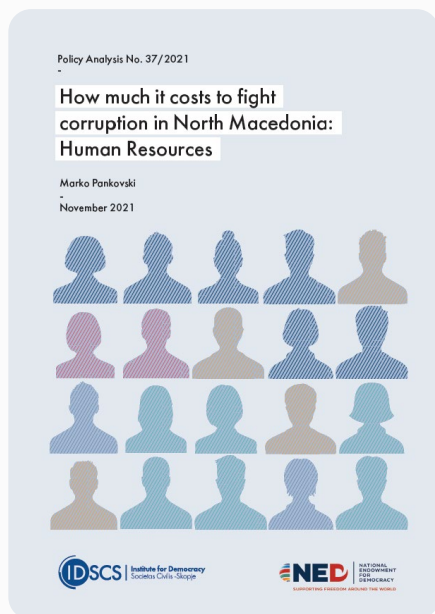
## MAN OF THE PEOPLE: PUBLIC OPINION ANALYSIS OF CITIZEN'S POLITICAL DEMANDS



The report is focused on the societal demand for populist leaders and policies in the Republic of North Macedonia. Each political mobilization - including the one based on populist rhetoric and methods - has its supply and demand. The supply is established by the political parties and the politicians who rely on the populist discourse when participating in the democratic competition. The demand is created at a societal level, between the citizens and various groups in society. These two populism tendencies, top-down and bottom-up, are intertwined. The populism supply can stimulate the demand from citizens and vice versa. The strategically inclined political leaders, who intend to secure or stay in power, may use the populist viewpoints of the population to achieve their goals. For this reason, doing research for the demand for populism in a society is of monumental significance for tackling the consequences of this political phenomenon.

**IDSCS, November 2021**

# HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN NORTH MACEDONIA: AVAILABILITY OF HUMAN RESOURCES



The Government of North Macedonia ignited a series of policies that suggested an increased focus in the fight against corruption. This further increased the civic expectations for tangible results. In addition to the political commitment, the key actors' resources and capacities in the fight against corruption are necessary for fulfilling these expectations. The State Commission for Fight Against Corruption, the State Audit Office, the Council of Inspection Authorities, and the Commission for Protection of Competition (National Antitrust Body) are vital institutions tasked with prevention. The current analysis aims to measure these institutions' capacity and required investment in human resources as a critical precondition for their performance. The findings suggest that the systematization acts (job classifications) are not fulfilled despite the increased investment in these institutions. They miss personnel to work on anticorruption cases, and their salaries are below the national average for vacancies with equivalent qualifications. The analysis also provides an overview of the current level of investment, the situa-

tion and challenges these institutions face, and calculates how much we need to invest for their better functioning. The analysis develops two scenarios with variations. The first scenario is an investment in filling the employment plans, and the second scenario is an investment in personnel that will work on anticorruption cases. The total amount varies from EUR 4 to 5 million annually, depending on the scenario. In addition to these costs, if the vacancies for inspectorates are filled, the amount reaches up to EUR 12 million annually.

**IDSCS, November 2021**



# SELDI.net

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